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Great Beginnings Tour will make stop at reservation

Special to MNN

The Better Badger Baby Bus Tour is rolling into the Menominee Indian Reservation on Thursday, July 29. The statewide tour is part of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families early childhood development campaign Great Beginnings: The First Years Last Forever. The goal for this project is to raise public awareness about the importance of the first three years of a child's life and early childhood brain development.

The bus will stop at the College of Menominee Nation's Glen Miller Hall for activities that help parents and caregivers learn more about early childhood brain development and simple steps they can take to enhance children's intellectual and emotional capacity.

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families is a statewide nonprofit organization that collaborates with individuals and organizations in the public and private sector to improve the well

Please see **TOUR** page 2.



Reading, fun implemented in Summer Youth Program



Patricia Tourtellot/CIOM Director

Pictured above are students and a staff member making paper mache globes. They are, left to right: Edana Tomow • Childrens Librarian Assistant, David Kitson, and Adam Tomow. 'Go Global: Read' was the summer reading theme. The program was geared towards 6-8 year-olds with 17 youth participating at the Keshena Public Library and 11 enrolled at the South Branch library. Additional photos and story on page 21.

Contract rewriting could halt Casino Plan

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — Any change in an agreement with Menominee Indians involving the city, Kenosha County and the state could halt the tribe's plan to build a gambling casino, a municipal official says.

The city revealed Monday (July 19) several documents representing talks with the tribe about using public services while operating a casino annex at the Dairyland parimutuel race track.

"This is an all or nothing contract," City Administrator Nick Arnold said. "You can't take one piece out of the

contract or cut the contract.

"As it is now, it is created with the maximum amount of protection for the community and, with that notion in mind, it is not our intent to let anybody tinker with it."

The documents contain an agreement with the Menominee and the three levels of government; a resolution of support that the city council has to approve and which is requested by Gov. Tommy Thompson, and

Please see **CASINO** page 2.

Photo finish



M. Wilber/MNN

Faye and Richard Annamitta cross the finish line stride for stride after completing the second annual Menominee Triathlon. Additional photos and story on page 11.

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an agreement by the city and county on how to share funds that the tribe has pledged.

City and county officials are to meet next Tuesday (July 27) with the US Bureau of Indian Affairs, which must authorize the casino. The city council plans a hearing July 29 and a vote Aug. 2.

Arnold said the BIA might forbid the tribe's payments to the city and county. The bureau vetoed a similar agreement between Milwaukee and the Potawatomi Indians, who operate a casino in downtown Milwaukee. The BIA argues the Potawatomi payments were taxes. A difference in the Kenosha agreement, however, is that the Menominee offer to pay the city, county and Gateway Technical College as compensation for services, Arnold said.

The contract is for 10 years, a period of time that is necessary to help the tribe borrow \$200 million to develop the business, Arnold said.

TOUR:

being of children and families. The Council advocates for effective health, education, justice, and human service delivery systems that are accessible and equitable for all children.

The Better Badger Baby Bus Tour is funded by the Northwestern Mutual Life Foundation. The Wisconsin Committee to Prevent Child Abuse, the Maternal and Child Health Coalition, with collaboration from the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups.